

### THIRD LETTER (TL)

DATE

Dr. FIELD(Persnamf) FIELD(Persnaml)  
FIELD(Address1)  
FIELD(Address2)  
FIELD(City) FIELD(State) FIELD(Zip1)  
FIELD(Country)

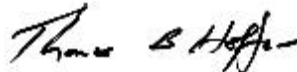
Dear Dr. FIELD(Persnaml):

I am writing to you about the Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED). At this time, we are closing the data collection for 2000-2001 doctoral recipients, and we have not yet received your completed questionnaire. We would be most appreciative if you would take a few moments to complete the questionnaire enclosed and return it as quickly as possible. Because your response is crucial to the value of this survey, I am sending this by priority mail to ensure delivery.

The SED is an annual census of all research doctorate recipients in the United States since 1958. It is supported by six Federal agencies and the graduate schools in this country. The high quality standards of the SED have made it the most widely-used source of data on doctoral education in the United States. The data are used by Federal agencies to inform Congress and make decisions about financial support for graduate education, and by universities for making decisions concerning policy and programs for graduate students. The ability of the survey to describe accurately the 2000 class of doctorate earners thus depends on obtaining responses from *all* doctorate degree recipients. Your response affects decisions made for the next generations of doctorate recipients.

I want to assure you that Federal law requires us to keep your answers private and confidential, and prohibits us from releasing information that would identify any individual's responses. If you would like, please visit the National Science Foundation's Web-site at <http://www.nsf.gov/sbe/srs/sengdr/start.htm> to examine results of past surveys. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Tom Hoffer, Ph.D.  
Project Director, Survey of Earned Doctorates

FIELD(Su\_id)